

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A discharge lamp comprising:

a luminous bulb in which a luminous material is enclosed  
5 and a pair of electrodes are opposed in the luminous bulb; and  
a pair of sealing portions for sealing a pair of metal foils  
electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively;  
wherein at least one of the pair of sealing portions is  
provided with at least one constricted portion whose length in  
10 a thickness direction of the metal foil in the sealing portion  
is smaller than that of other portions in the sealing portion.

2. The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein at least one of the  
constricted portions is provided in a portion on the luminous bulb  
15 side than a center of the sealing portion.

3. The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein a plurality of constricted  
portions are formed on the sealing portion.

20 4. The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein each of the pair of  
metal foils includes an external lead on a side opposite to a side  
electrically connected to a corresponding electrode of the pair  
of electrodes, and

at least one of the constricted portions is formed in an  
25 area between an end of the electrode and an end of the external  
lead of at least one of the sealing portions.

5. A discharge lamp comprising:

a luminous bulb in which a luminous material is enclosed  
and a pair of electrodes are opposed in the luminous bulb; and

a pair of sealing portions for sealing a pair of metal foils  
5 electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively;

wherein at least one of the pair of sealing portions is  
provided with at least one oblate cross-section portion in which  
a length in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction  
of the metal foil in the sealing portion is larger than that in  
10 the thickness direction in the sealing portion.

6. The discharge lamp of claim 5, wherein a cross-sectional shape  
of the oblate cross-section portion is a substantially ellipse  
having a minor axis in the thickness direction of the metal foil  
15 and a major axis in a direction perpendicular to the thickness  
direction.

7. The discharge lamp of claim 5, wherein the oblate cross-section  
portion is provided in a portion on the luminous bulb side than  
20 a center of the sealing portion.

8. The discharge lamp of claim 5, wherein the oblate cross-section  
portion is formed in the entire sealing portion.

25 9. The discharge lamp of claim 1 or 5, wherein each of the pair  
of sealing portions has a shrink seal structure.

10. The discharge lamp of claim 1 or 5, wherein ends of the pair of sealing portions on a side opposite to the luminous bulb side are tapered.

5 11. The discharge lamp of claim 1 or 5, wherein each of the pair of metal foils is attached tightly to a glass portion extended from the luminous bulb, and

each of the pair of metal foils is a molybdenum foil.

10 12. The discharge lamp of claim 1 or 5, wherein the luminous material comprises at least mercury.

13. A lamp unit comprising the discharge lamp of claim 1 or 5 and a reflecting mirror for reflecting light emitted from the

15 discharge lamp.